Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 Group Art Unit 2626, Expedited Procedure

03500.013697.

PATENT APPLICATION

MAY 14 e Application of:

IN THE UNITED STÄTES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: M. M. Vida

KENICHI OHTA Group Art Unit: 2626

Appln. No.: 09/363,028

Filed: July 29, 1999

For: **IMAGE PROCESSING**

APPARATUS, IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND

May 4, 200.4 **RECORDING MEDIUM**

RECEIVED

MAY 1 8 2004

Technology Center 2600

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 23313-1450

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION

AND REQUEST FOR VACATION OF FINALITY

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 4, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows: amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing beginning on page 2, and the Remarks begin on page 6.

> I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

May 4, 2004 (Date of Deposit)

Leonard P. Diana (Reg. No. 29,296) Name of Attorney for Applicant)

May 4, 2004

Date of Signature